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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

US Congressmen Interested in Hanoi Trip: Congressmen Fred Schwengel (R. Iowa) and William Cowger (R. Ky.) told the US Embassy in Saigon yesterday that they are going to ask the North Vietnamese for permission to visit Hanoi. The congressmen plan to cable Pham Van Dong from Bangkok, where they are stopping briefly.

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Doumer Bridge: The Paul Doumer Bridge on the main rail-highway route from China to Hanoi appears open to truck traffic again after being closed by the bombings on 25 October.

Photography of 17 November showed what appeared to be prefabricated concrete spans across the gap created by dropping two spans last month. The concrete spans apparently are intended to support rail as well as truck traffic.

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Death of Indian ICC Soldier: After the Indian ICC sergeant was killed last week, Hanoi wasted no time in passing out photographs of the body and the death certificate. Both made front pages all over the world. The certificate, signed by an Indian army doctor attached to the ICC, gave the cause of death as wounds from "shrapnel of a US missile."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Comments on Four Sailors: In an English language broadcast on 22 November, Hanoi reported the activities of the four US sailors who deserted from the Intrepid. The broadcast quoted the seamen as condemning the war in Vietnam and claiming that if the US desired peace it could simply withdraw its troops and let the Vietnamese settle their own affairs.

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Campus Comment: In a brief English language broadcast on 23 November, Hanoi recounted the details of a demonstration on 20 November at San Jose State College. It said the protest was against "Johnson's war in Vietnam" and the recruiting activities of the Dow Chemical Company. The broadcast reported that the demonstrators burned the American flag and a large three-headed effigy labeled "Dow, LBJ, and Military." "Reactionary" US authorities sent 17 carloads of policemen to the campus to put down the "heroic" students, according to the broadcast.

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Viet Cong Brands US Leaders "Optimism Peddlers": Liberation Front Vietnamese language broadcast on 21 November accused Ambassador Bunker and General Westmoreland of concealing the "chaotic situation" in South Vietnam. The broadcast said that "no one among the American people" wants to believe what they have to say. Citing the New York Times, Liberation Radio reminded listeners that in November 1963 General Harkins also stated that victory in Vietnam was only a matter of months away.

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